

# Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Vol. 3

July, 1898

No. 7

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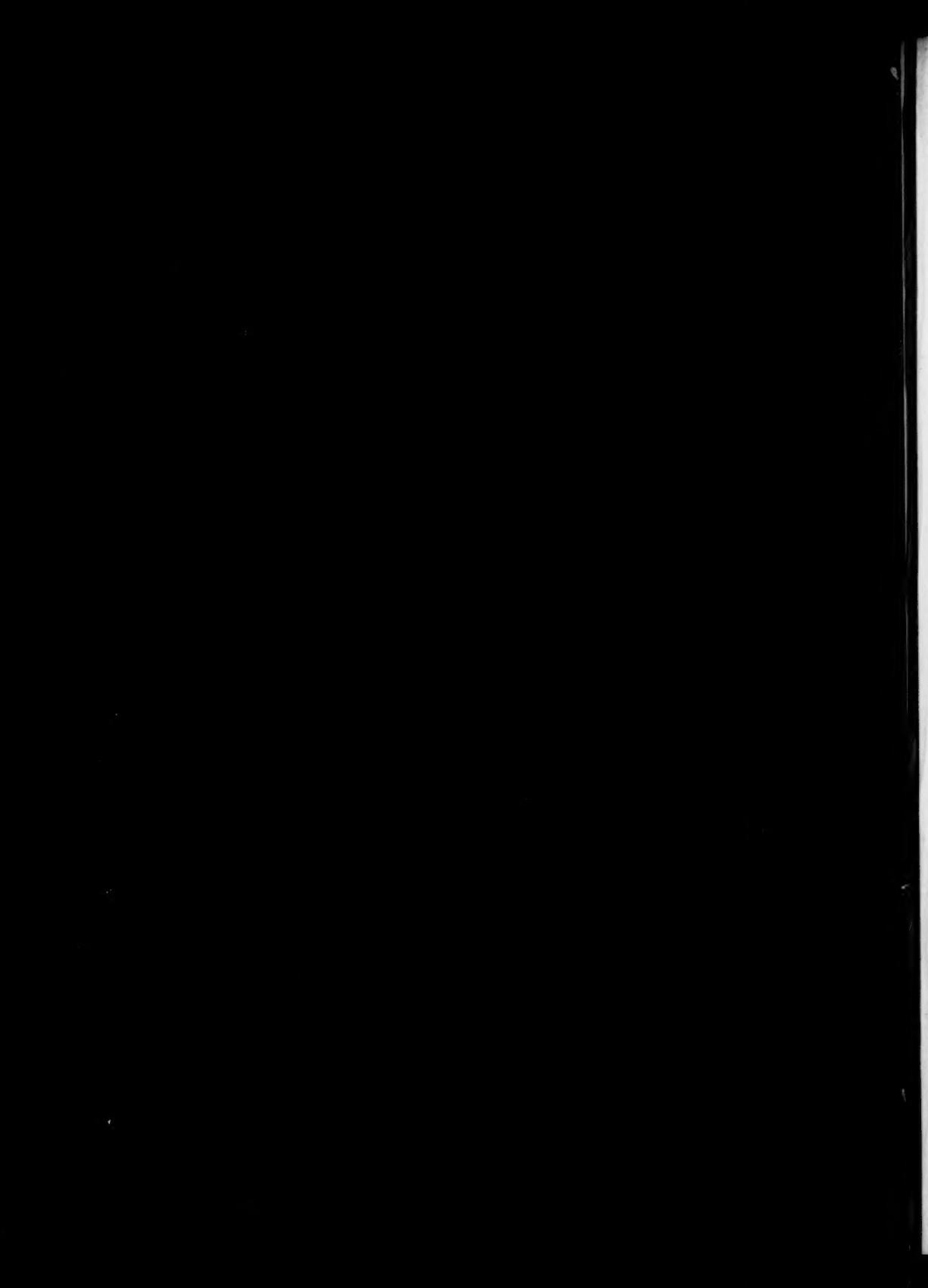
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# Public Libraries

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## The Planning of Small Library Buildings

Oscar Bluemner, Architect, Chicago

One may, to a certain extent, draw a line between that part of the interior allotted to books and the librarian and that part which is entirely given to the use of the patrons. The former may be called the private, the latter, the public department. Thus the architect will more distinctively formulate the structural ideas of his general plan; he will, furthermore, distinguish between the delivery (or, better called, the exchange) room and the reading room, making up, together with a waiting and reception room or vestibule, the public space. Such strict discrimination aids the designer in conceiving a well-balanced plan as well as a suitable architectural treatment and proper decoration of the various parts of the interior. A double character results from the twofold purpose which a modern public library serves, viz., the exchange of books which are taken home and the accommodation of readers. The one brings the library building nearer to a store and shop, the other to a club-house, and it is just this domestic and rather private nature which, intensified by moderate dimensions, clearly distinguishes the small public library from the pretentious and large one, in which the public character dominates. If this discrimination were more generally accepted by those who build our small libraries, and better understood by the architects

who design them, there would not be such frequent misuse of the vestibule, which too often is the weak point of the whole arrangement. The architect plans a large and fine vestibule, octagonal, round, or square, with a dome-like ceiling, if possible, and a magnificent staircase to the upper floor, where the audience hall is located. Separate doors lead to the various rooms of the library which radiate from it as in a portly residence, or even in a public building. The result is that all direct intercommunication between the different parts of the interior is made difficult, the space wasted which the librarian sorely needs, his supervision of the rooms interfered with, and altogether the very reverse is obtained of what the plan should yield. Scoville Institute at Oak Park, Ill., may be cited as a warning to those who still indulge in lavishing their skill and fancy upon a grand, but useless vestibule. The patron who comes to the library to return his book wants to lose no time, and should, therefore, reach the delivery room directly through an entrance hall which is broader than deep, and merely shuts off the draft and outside noise, having only one general entrance door, or double swinging doors into the interior. The delivery room, then, may be large enough to afford ample seating opportunity for people waiting, and give easy access to the book and reading rooms, while at the same time making good by its generous dimensions and appropriate decoration for the dignity lost with the banished ves-

tibule. It may be well to divide off a separate waiting hall from the delivery room by means of a partition and doors with clear (not opaque) glass. This arrangement, especially in the case of an adjacent children's room, may effectually keep out from the librarian's space and the reading room any disturbance arising from groups of children, without withdrawing them from the sight of the librarian. With such a well-controlled and spacious ante-room, that space of the delivery room which contains the exchange counter, the catalog, and perhaps a table for books returned, need barely be larger than 10 by 15 feet. The delivery room then, not a vestibule, will be the central point of the public part of a small library. Another serious question is, whether one main floor or two stories should be planned to contain all the rooms which the public constantly visits. The public library in a small town usually is its only intellectual center, and the tendency is to add rooms for children, for the exhibition of pictures and other collections of pieces of art, and the requirements for such a building may become more complicated. There is no doubt it is necessary if only one librarian, with at most one assistant, can be afforded, that one main floor should contain all the rooms constantly frequented by the people, and these rooms should form one grand interior, with no solid walls and doors between them. The term room thus becomes rather paradox, being divested of its very feature, the all-around separating walls, but I have used it hitherto simply for the sake of definiteness. Without anticipating here further considerations which belong to the second part of our investigation, I may yet consider the necessity of making use of an upper floor for the purposes of the library proper. The want of sufficient space on the main floor in a cramped locality, especially in the center of a town, often compels the architect to locate a children's, or a reference and other rooms on a second floor, which, nevertheless, should be

under the constant supervision of the librarian. In this case a properly planned vestibule may well help the architect out of the difficulty. It should be entirely open toward the delivery and librarian's space, and run through from the main floor to the ceiling of the second floor, and contain an open staircase which leads to a gallery running along the walls of the vestibule in the second floor. This gallery then opens without doors into the upper rooms, which can be so arranged in height and depth that the librarian obtains a view into them from his desk.

#### Public Libraries and Recreation\*

W. I. Fletcher, Librarian of Amherst college

It was once remarked to me by a clergyman that he could preach best when he had something to preach against. If I ever had any success in a patriotic address it was in one in which I took as a text to preach against the famous words of the father of lies, "All that a man hath will he give for his life."

Acting on the same principle, I have not far to go for a text today in what I would like to say about the public library.

The current number of the North American review has an article on Public libraries and the community, written by the librarian of the Boston public library, which, while it is, on the whole, as might be expected from that source, an able and wisely conceived article, gives expression to one idea against which I wish to raise my voice in protest. The idea is one that often finds expression in these days, and is, after all, the chief stock in trade of those who oppose public libraries *in toto*; namely, that it is not right to maintain libraries at the public expense which are used largely to furnish entertainment and recreation rather than instruction.

I do not mean to charge the article in question with so strongly put and rad-

\*Remarks at the dedication of the Dickinson memorial library, Northfield, Mass., June 9, 1898.

ical a position as this. But as it is the most recent public expression of views of this sort, I take occasion by it to repudiate these views as being contrary to those held by the wise men who, in giving birth to our free library system also gave it its present character. The late Dr W. F. Poole, himself one of the chief fathers of modern librarianship, in his address as president of the American library association in 1887 said: It was fortunate that the public library system started where it did, and under the supervision of the eminent men who constituted the first board of trustees of the Boston public library. Chief among these men was George Ticknor, and Dr Poole went on to show that the policy of the library was largely conceived by him and carried through against the opposition of Edward Everett and others.

Mr Ticknor's idea of the library was that it should be made as free as possible, and as attractive to all classes, especially to those whose taste for reading was yet to be formed. Mr Ticknor's views were shared by Robert C. Winthrop, one of the largest-minded men Massachusetts has produced, and that is saying a good deal. Mr Winthrop's address at the laying of the cornerstone of the first building of the Boston library, in 1855, remains as, perhaps, the best exposition of the free library idea. It seems to reach its culmination in his exclamation, This, then, is to be our intellectual and literary common! In the preceding paragraph he had spoken of the common, opposite which the building was to stand, in those terms of affection which are always to be expected of the true Bostonian when he speaks of Boston common. He characterized it as the playground of our children and pleasure-ground of us all. His idea of the library was thus conveyed by his comparison of the library to the common. Speaking thus in a parable he spoke a language which all that have ears to hear can hear and understand.

We hear much of the library as a part of the educational apparatus of the

town and the state. Yes, it is indeed that, but it is more and other than that. To my mind it should stand for culture rather than education in the narrow sense; and culture, it is now coming to be recognized, is to be had through recreation, as well as through tasks and through study. An article in the current Atlantic monthly takes the ground that all education up to high school age should consist of gymnastics, music, manual training, free-hand drawing, and language, mainly English, possibly a little French. This proposed New program in education, as the writer calls it, while it is too radical to meet acceptance at present, is in a line with much of the thought of the day, which recognizes the cultural value of the aesthetic and the pleasurable.

There is nothing out of place in the comparing of the library to the school and the college, but its true mission is not to be so limited. To a large extent it is to be compared, as an object of public care and expense, with the park, the modern common, where there are flower-beds, rare plants in conservatories, lakes with boats in summer and skating in winter, and music by excellent bands. Not very strictly useful, these things, but recognized everywhere as ministering to the real culture of the people. Let this library, then, be the place where you will come not merely to study and store your minds with so-called "useful" knowledge, but also often to have a good time; to refresh your minds and hearts with humor and poetry and fiction; let the boys find here wholesome books of adventure, and tales such as a boy likes; let the girls find the stories which delight them and give their fancy and imagination exercise; let the tired housewife find the novels which will transport her to an ideal realm of love and happiness; let the hard-worked man, instead of being expected always to read "improving" books of history or politics, choose that which shall give him relaxation of mind and nerve, perhaps the Innocents abroad or Josh Billings' "Allminax," or Samanthy at Saratoga.

Lest I be misunderstood let me say distinctly that I have no place in my conception of a public library for books that are debasing in their tendency. The modern school of fiction, more or less justly called French or Frenchy, which makes of love an unholy and selfish passion, which saps the foundations of all that is sacred in marriage and the home, let it be rigidly excluded. When I was a boy and ate an apple (not with knife and plate, but in the good old-fashioned way), if there were spots on the outside I could bite them out and spit them out of my mouth. They didn't trouble me. But if I bit into the apple and found it rotten inside, however fair the exterior I threw it away, and generally enjoyed seeing how far I could throw it. God has given us a moral palate as true and unerring as that which loathes the rotten apple. All the advice that needs be given a boy or girl as to the moral quality of their reading is this: Don't read that which you feel does you harm, which revolts the moral palate that we call conscience.

Next to high thoughts and noble purposes, both of which may be inspired by many books here, we need nothing as a people more than a deeper and broader humanity, more sympathy with our fellow men, quicker sensibilities, a more cheerful and robust life. Let us learn how to live happily, cheerfully, generously, and the details of life may largely be left to take care of themselves. For this training in true living we may owe more to Shakespeare, to Thackeray, to Dickens, to George Eliot, to Scott, yes, to Mrs O'Phelan, and (I will say it), to E. P. Roe, than to writers on history or philosophy, politics or science.

Then, however valuable to a community a schoolhouse or even a church might be, don't let it appropriate to itself the place which you need for a common.

It is books which teach us to refine our pleasures when young, and to recall them with satisfaction when old.—

*Leigh Hunt.*

### A. L. A. Organization

A year ago there was much being said about the unwieldy size of the A. L. A., and several plans were presented to remedy the defect. I heard of one, though I do not believe it was publicly discussed, which seemed to me to have much good sense in it. For some reason which I never heard given, all discussion of the subject ceased after the trip to Europe last summer; nevertheless, I should like to bring to notice at this time some of the points in the plan of which I speak, hoping that the matter will be taken up again at Lakewood. The first point was a suggestion to do away with the long list of committees; to reorganize in their places permanent sections, viz: a public library section, a college library section, a state library section, etc., each section to elect its directing officer and secretary, and these officers to make up a council. The section secretaries could act as assistant secretaries to the general secretary, and by being in touch with a well-defined class, communication would be much facilitated, and great assistance could be given the general secretary. The council as at present organized is absolutely inactive, and I am sure most of the committees have no *raison d'être*. How many of them report regularly, and if they do, what do the reports amount to? By centralizing interests, as is suggested in the section plan, the various lines of library work would become more strongly differentiated than they are now, and by becoming so differentiated, I believe each would become stronger; and by thus classifying the interests, pruning them as it were, it seems to me reasonable to suppose that each has a better chance of growth and expansion, and would not this benefit the whole library movement?

It may be urged that sections are now the plan of the A. L. A. No one will venture to assert that they are vital parts of the association as they can well be made. I hope there will be more said on this subject.

LIBRARIAN.

**The Public Library for the Public**

The librarian of former times was almost invariably a bookworm, and was often a student properly so called. The older librarians of the present day, and the librarians of the great libraries of our cities, are also very commonly men of letters, men of learning, men who admire the student spirit and know how to appreciate it. The librarian of former days actually felt that the books of which he had charge were to be used, if they were used at all, chiefly, if not only, by persons who wished to make some careful and painstaking research, and the older librarians and the librarians of the greater libraries of today are also inclined to think that their libraries are best used, or at least are used as fully as they need be, when they are visited by those who are engaged in original investigation on serious study of some sort. As an eastern librarian has just written me, for example, of one of his colleagues, "his whole trend is scholarly rather than popular; he appreciates genuine contributions to art, science, and industry, but has little taste for the great class of books that the main body of readers care for." This view of literature, libraries, and the use of books, and this special fondness for what may be called genuine contributions to art, science, and industry, are proper enough in their time and place; but it cannot be too often impressed upon the library world, and upon those who contribute to the support of libraries, and upon trustees and directors generally, that the thing that is of great consequence in the work of the free public library is not its product in the shape of books, which are the results of careful research, or of books which are contributions to science, art, and industry; it is the work that the library does from day to day in stimulating the inquiring spirit, in adding to the interest in things, and in broadening the minds of the common people who form 90 per cent at least of the public library patrons. That is to say, the public library is

chiefly concerned not in the products of education, as shown in the finished book, but in the process of education as shown in the developing and training of the library user, of the general public.

It is from this common-folks-education point of view that the advocate of the open-shelf system looks upon the question of library administration. A free public library is not a people's post-graduate school, it is the people's common school.

The more I see and learn of free public libraries the more I am convinced that a public library can reach a high degree of efficiency in its work only when its books are accessible to all its patrons. The free public library should not be managed for the use of the special student, save in special cases, any more than is the free public school. That it should be solely or chiefly or primarily the students' library, in any proper sense of the word, is as contrary to the spirit of the whole free public library movement as would be the making of the public schools an institution for the creation of Greek philologists. Every one engaged in educational work, and especially those thus engaged who are most thoroughly equipped for the work in a literary way, and are most in touch with the literary and scholarly spirit, should have his attention called again and again to the needs of the crowd, the mass, the common people, the general run, the 90 per cent who either have never been within a schoolroom or left it forever by the time they were thirteen years of age. And his attention should be again and again called to the fact that of the millions of children who are getting an education in this country today, not over five or six per cent at the outside, and perhaps even less than that, ever get into institutions for higher learning. The few, of course, rule and must keep the lamp burning, but the many must have sufficient education to know how to walk by it if democracy is to endure. And the school for the many is and is to be, if the opinions of librarians are correct,

the free public library. But it cannot be a school for the many unless the many walk into it, and go among its books, handle them, and so doing come to know them and to love them and to use them, and to get wisdom from them.

J. C. DANA.

### Co-operation Between the Schools and the Library in Providence

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

As a still further contribution to the discussion in the columns of your May number of Coöperation between schools and libraries, I may be allowed to mention some points in our work in Providence which may be of interest.

This library is now in its twenty-first year, and its managers have had the satisfaction of seeing these coöperative measures which were undertaken at the beginning, deepen and extend from year to year. But this is a kind of work which cannot be assumed as accomplished, once for all, and then relinquished. Not very many years are required to make an almost complete change in the membership of the teaching force, and the librarian is not wise who does not aim to guard against this constant tendency to drift "out of touch." In our own community a routine like the following—which is now in progress—has been found effectual in keeping a hold on the interest and acquaintance of the teachers: 1) An address by the librarian before the general association of teachers of the whole state at certain intervals; 2) A similar opportunity of addressing all of the public school teachers of the city at one of their quarterly meetings; 3) A familiar interview with the grammar school principals at one of their monthly meetings; 4) A series of personal visits to the various grammar schools for a fifteen-minute address to all the pupils assembled in the school hall, and afterwards an opportunity of meeting familiarly all the teachers in the building. These interviews and visits are now in progress. The farmer who cultivates

his field one year, and decides to omit doing so for the next few years, can as reasonably expect the best results as the librarian who secures the satisfaction of knowing the teachers and pupils of his community in one year and then desists. If, in addition to the above, there are other agencies for cultivating acquaintance with the teachers so much the better, as in the case of the Barnard club of Providence, an association of teachers, through whose courtesy the librarian has been elected to membership, thus greatly strengthening and deepening the acquaintance formed. Of course the ordinary measures of what may be called the routine order are not to be neglected withal—the issue of books on the special school cards, the purchase of special copies of books for such use, and the printing of lists of these books for distribution to the schools, and the sending of books on special subjects to the schools. The monthly bulletin published by the library, and supplied by the superintendent of schools to each grammar school building, not only contains a department especially for teachers and pupils, but studies the individual wants of different schools, as in a list of books on photography (supplied because of the interest in the subject at one of the schools), or the general wants of the schools as a whole (as in the case of a list of "fresh and unhackneyed" subjects for school essays). This library, however, is one which has hitherto been unable to put into operation its ideals and purposes in this field of coöperative work on any adequate scale, owing to the embarrassments of the present library quarters. The new building, into possession of which it will soon enter, might almost be described as a building definitely planned to facilitate such co-operation, and to this consummation of our hopes both the teachers and the librarian are looking forward with high anticipations.

WILLIAM E. FOSTER.  
Providence public library.

June 1, 1898.

**Children, Schools and Libraries:**

A list, with abstracts, of some of the more important contributions to the subject. Compiled by Marion Dickinson for the City Library, Springfield, Mass.

**i. Relations of Schools and Libraries in General.**

**Adams, Chas. F. Jr.** Public Library and Public Schools. (Green, S. S. Libraries and Schools, p. 5. Also Library Journal, 1:347.) The teacher's work in establishing in children a taste for good literature.

**A. L. A. Library Primer.** Young People and the Schools. (Public Libraries, 1:81.) Special reading room; instruction in use of indexes; coöperation of teachers.

**Bolton, Charles Knowles.** Library Examinations in Schools. (Library Journal, 20:122.) Instrucción in use of the library; reference books; use of catalog; library examinations.

**Coe, Ellen M.** Relation of Libraries to Public Schools. (Library Journal, 17:193.) Library books a necessity in class-room work; why the public library is preferable to school libraries.

**Cole, George Watson.** How Teachers Should Coöperate with Librarians. (Library Journal, 20:115.) Encouraging the formation of a reading habit; elevation of the child's taste; supplementary reading; books to aid the teacher; children's classics sent to schools; class and reference work at library.

**Dana, J. C.** Libraries and Teachers. (Library Journal, 21:133.) Review of work already accomplished in raising standard of child's reading; need of experience based on careful observations, the teacher the best source of information.

**Dewey, Melvil.** New Library Department of the National Educational Association. (Public Libraries, 1:183.) The library an essential part of any complete educational system; necessity for the coöperation of school and library.

**Eastman, Linda A.** The Child, the School, and the Library. (Library Journal, 21:134.) Instruction in the use of books; use of indexes; guides and books of reference; incidental advantages from this practice; special lists; special assistant; careful oversight; abolishing age limit.

**Elgin, Ill.** Coöperation Between Libraries and Schools. (Public Libraries, 3:153.) Plan for increasing the use of the library by school children.

**Foerste, Aug. F.** Public School and the Public Library. (Library Journal, 22:341.) Public museum; district school library; boy's corner; topical library in high school; teacher's shelf in library; topical selection of books.

**Folsom, Channing.** How Can and Should the Library Assist the School? (Public Libraries, 3:164.) Reports of Supt. of Schools at Dover, N. H., Haverhill, Mass., Pawtucket, R. I., Manchester, N. H., and Nashua, N. H.

**Foster, William E.** Plan of Systematic Training in Reading at School. (Green, S. S. Libraries and Schools, p. 119. Also Library Journal, 8:24.) Use of public library; school library; systematic supervision.

— — — Relation of the Libraries to the School System. (Green, S. S. Libraries and Schools, p. 89. Also Library Journal, 5:99.) Work of schools and libraries in developing and directing the child's taste.

— — — The School and the Library: Their Mutual Relation. (Library Journal, 4:319.) Effective coöperation through mutual understanding, acquaintance and action; methods for awakening the pupil's interest in books.

**Galbreath, Prof. Louis H.** Books for Various Grades. (Public Libraries, 2:304.) Adaptation of books to the age and needs of the child; coöperation of librarian, parent, and teacher.

**Green, Samuel S.** Libraries as Educational Institutions. (Green, S. S. Libraries and Schools, p. 56.) Upon the use of children's lists; the establishment of school libraries; and special exhibitions of valuable works. Same as Aids and Guides for Readers.

— — — Relation of the Public Library to the Public School. (Green, S. S. Libraries and Schools, p. 25. Also Library Journal, 5: 235.) Methods for increasing the usefulness of libraries to students of high and grammar schools.

— — — Report on Libraries and Schools. (Library Journal, 8:229.) Work accomplished by allowing books to be taken to schools; work done by use of books at the library.

**Harris, Hon. W. T.** Function of the Library and the School in Education. (Library Journal, 15:27.) School paves the way for self-education by means of library; systematic reading through school work; home reading; book lists; graded courses of reading; reading circles.

**James, Hannah P.** Libraries in Relation to Schools. (Library Journal, 18:213.) Coöperation with school authorities; special assistant for school work; annotated lists; special libraries sent to schools; reference use by pupils.

**Klink, Jane Seymour.** Use of Libraries by School Children. (Public Libraries, 2:16.) The teacher the connecting link between child and library.

**Libraries and Schools.** (Library Journal, 16: 104.) Reports upon lending books to schools from Miss Hewins, Mr Utley, and Dr Linderfelt.

**Mackenzie, Supt. Muskegon schools.** The Public School and the Public Library. (Public libraries, 2:423.) Criticism of effort to reach the child; work best done by teacher; need of further classification of books.

**Merington, Mary.** Public Libraries and Public Schools. (Library Journal, 12:157.) Establishment of reading rooms; graded cata-

- logs; books sent to schools; fostering a love of good reading.
- Metcalf, R. C.** The Public Library as an Auxiliary to the Public Schools. (Green, S. S. *Libraries and Schools*, p. 74.) Cultivation of pupil's taste through miscellaneous reading in schools.
- Reading in the Public Schools. (Library Journal, 4: 343.) Use of note books; written weekly report; verbal criticism. Library brought into intimate relation with school.
- Miller, Marie.** Schools and Libraries. (Public Libraries, 1: 89.) Advocating that the child be sent to the library rather than the library to the child; advantages gained thereby.
- Mountjoy, J. C.** Schools and Libraries. (Public Libraries, 2: 368.) How to provide means for starting a school library.
- National Educational Association.** Coöperation Between Schools and Libraries. (Public Libraries 3: 154.) Reports from various states.
- Newton Free Library Report.** How Public Libraries may Benefit Public Schools. (Library Journal, 11: 115.) Books upon subjects connected with the studies supplied to the schools; visit to schools by librarian. See also article by Hannah P. James, Library Journal, 11: 224.
- Nichols, F. W.** How to Induce School Reading. (Public Libraries, 2: 9.) Methods for introducing literature into school work; direction of home reading.
- Parsons, John.** The Library and the School. (Public Libraries, 1: 313.) The importance of early training in the use of the library.
- Philadelphia Conference, 1897.** Discussion of Children's Library Work. (Library Journal, 22: 156.)
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- Coe, Ellen M.** What can be done to help a boy to like good books after he has fallen into the "dime novel habit"? (Library Journal, 20: 118.) Acquaintance with boy; gradual substitution of better reading; bulletins of selected books.
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- Merington, Mary E.** How may we make the guiding of pupils' reading a part of the teacher's work? (Library Journal, 20: 119.) Awakening an interest in and love of knowledge; intelligent use of newspapers; supervision of child's reading.
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- Denver School Library.** (*Public Libraries*, 1: 54.) Plan of carrying on the library.
- 4. The Children's Library, and Special Work with Children.**
- Adams, Emma Louise.** Methods of Children's Library Work as Determined by the Needs of the Children. (*Public Libraries*, 2: 395.) Knowledge of child nature; personal aid; coöperation with teachers; abolition of age limit; children's room; special library system; class work; librarian's visits; reference work; choice of books, etc.
- American Library Association.** Children's Library Methods as Determined by the Needs of Children. (*Public Libraries*, 2: 395.) Value of personal influence.
- Boston Public Library Report. 1895.** Children and the Library. (*Library Journal*, 21: 368.) Importance of the children's room; methods for making it attractive.
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- Fairchild, Edwin Milton.** Methods of Children's Library Work as Determined by the Needs of the Children. (*Library Journal*, 22: 19.) Kinds of children's libraries; ends to be gained; methods of gaining these ends; neighborhood libraries; home libraries; club traveling libraries; school and school traveling libraries; work of neighborhood libraries.
- Fletcher, William I.** Public Libraries and the Young. (*Public Libraries in U. S.* 1: 412.) Advocating abolishment of age restriction; parental supervision; choice of books; the library coöperating with the school.
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- Moore, Annie Carroll.** Children's Room. (*Public Libraries*, 2: 125.) Methods for drawing the children to the library.
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- Bishop, W. Warner.** School Libraries and Public Libraries. (*Public Libraries*, 1: 94.) The libraries contrasted and the field of each defined.

- Cheener, W. H.** Use and Abuse of School Libraries. (Public Libraries, 2: 349-51.) Giving the conditions in some townships in Wisconsin.
- Comstock, Mary E.** Library as an Educational Factor. (Library Journal, 21: 147.) Improvement in school readers; books for supplementary reading; small libraries placed in the schools; result of such an experiment.
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- English, M. Francis.** Classification of School Libraries. (Public Libraries, 2: 351.) Recommending opportunity for examining and classifying books as a means for arousing a child's interest.
- Green, Samuel S.** Libraries and Schools. Results of a New Experiment in Worcester, Mass. (Library Journal, 12: 400.) Small libraries placed in schools for aid in studies and for home reading; increase in use of public library.
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- Birtwell, C. W.** Home Libraries. (Library Journal, 19: 9.) Libraries for children of the poor; visitors; assistant; readers; records; benefits resulting.
- Cutler, Mary S.** Home Libraries. (Library Journal, 21: 60.) Small libraries for poor children; report of a new philanthropy; careful selection of books; introduction of some kindergarten features; see also Library Journal, 21: 24.
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- Books for a Sunday-school Library. (Public Libraries, 3: 49.) A plan to secure the books wanted and to prevent duplication in gifts.
- Brooks, Martha H.** Sunday-school Libraries. (Library Journal, 4: 338.) Selection of books; putting best books into circulation; nature of books to be chosen.
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- Tanner, Mary E.** A Traveling Library of Pictures. (Public Libraries, 2: 263.) Useful as a link between the foreign and the familiar. Photographs; the good idea drives out the bad. List of pictures recommended.

**Specialization in Library Collections**

Henry F. Peterson, Oakland (Cal.) public library

Specialization is becoming a very important question, and is being discussed in library clubs throughout the country. Would it not be a good idea for each of our libraries to take a department and make a specialty of completing it as near as possible, or as near as the funds of the library will permit? not, though, to the detriment of supplying in a measure the other needed works. Then a medium of exchange could be arranged in order that one library might be of use to another. The result and great advantage would then be that we would have, generally speaking, one large combined Coast library, instead of so many small and incomplete institutions, all carrying the same class of books upon the shelves. It would also be a great saving financially. It does seem such a wasteful expenditure of money for small libraries, with limited means, to be purchasing the same costly works, when, by this coöperation and combination, there could be a more judicious expenditure, with benefit to all, provided a good medium of exchange were inaugurated.

The preservation of all printed material of a local nature in libraries is a question of great moment. To my mind, a public library cannot contain too many books or pamphlets. There should, in every library, be established a department as a repository of documents and reports. Librarians should write to other librarians requesting copies of all city reports, reports such as may be published from time to time upon municipal matters, for these are of permanent and practical value.

Provision should be made for filing and indexing for reference and future use, all pamphlets, leaflets, and printed papers of local interest, and programs of public occasions, and other documents and contributions to current history of the city. It does not entail much time or trouble, and it may form the basis of a local historical collection. Those citizens having such programs

and documents should be requested to donate the same to the library, and the librarian should take especial pride and interest in the collection, and use his best endeavors to perpetuate it.

On this question some historian has said that it is recognized that there should be in all countries libraries of two classes: Libraries of deposit and research, and libraries devoted to general reading and the circulation of books.

Libraries of deposit should contain, if possible, almost every book printed. The most insignificant tract, the most trifling essay, a sermon, a newspaper, or a song, may afford an illustration of manners or opinions of the past, and throw a faithful, though feeble, light upon the pathway of the future historian. In such libraries nothing should be rejected. Those which on their publication have attracted the least notice sometimes become the source of valuable and unexpected information. Nothing should be neglected; nothing is useless to whoever wishes thoroughly to study a subject. But it is particularly for the biographer, for the historian, that it is necessary to preface the largest field of inquiry, to amass the greatest quantity of material. This is not only true as regards past times, but we ought to prepare materials for future students. Historical facts which appear the least important, the most insignificant anecdotes, registered in a pamphlet or mentioned in a placard, may be connected in a later period in an unforeseen manner with events which acquire great importance, or with men who are distinguished in history by their genius, and by their sudden elevation. When we desire to trace the history of those who have obtained it, the inquirer is often obliged to pursue his researches in their most humble beginnings. Nothing is too unimportant for whoever wishes thoroughly to study the literary or scientific history of a country, or for one who undertakes to trace the intellectual progress of eminent minds, or to inform himself in detail of the changes which have taken place in the institutions and manners of a nation.

## Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Library Bureau - - - - Publisher

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PUBLIC LIBRARIES does not appear in August nor September, and 10 numbers constitute a volume.

ONE of the things which perhaps has not received sufficient attention and discussion during the past year is the proposition to change the number of members of the executive council of the A. L. A. and the method of their election. The resolution proposing this change was presented at the close of a session, without discussion, when comparatively few members were present. It was thought then that its advisability would be brought out by discussion during the year. There has been no discussion of the matter since, so far as we are informed, and certainly nothing presented in print. An inquiry concerning certain other changes proposed is given elsewhere in these pages, and those interested are requested to give all consideration possible before the time of action on the question at Lakewood, so that whatever is done may be for the best interests of the A. L. A. and for the library cause in general.

IT is hoped that a large number of new members will be enrolled at the Lakewood meeting. Nothing will be of greater service to the libraries of the

country than a spread of membership in the A. L. A., thus carrying the library spirit into local communities and giving a helpful interest at home. No librarian can claim to be thoroughly alive to the importance of his work who does not try to interest others in the cause by devoting time and attention to the library meetings. There are many people who would be deeply interested in the work and help in its advancement if they only knew what it was and that they would be welcome.

ONE of the kind things which every library may do for the brave men who are facing death in the cause of humanity in the inactivity of camp life as much as those who are in the ranks in actual service, is to collect from those who are ready to give packages of suitable reading matter, and forward them to the camps in the south. Collect at once popular magazines, tales of adventure, wholesome fiction, and popular works of scientific investigation, and send them on at once without restriction or rules. We are told by private correspondence of the care and almost reverence with which the little reading matter at hand is passed from one to another until worn beyond further use. Expensive material is not expected, as with the bare necessities to carry, the soldiers find the march almost beyond their powers of endurance, and in the hurry and work of their movements it will not be possible to give proper care to such possessions.

ANNOUNCEMENT of the annual meeting of the library association of Australasia to be held in October, 1898, is received. If Admiral Dewey's capture of the Philippine islands is a permanent thing, there might be propriety in sending a delegate from the A. L. A.!

THE Youth's companion has begun a column headed New books worth reading. It will give brief reasons for choosing the books without giving reviews or criticisms. With the wide circulation which this very popular periodical has, the value of such a list will be far-reaching.

THE question of international postage between librarians is causing some little stir. There is hardly cause for some of the communications which have come to hand about the matter.

It is in many cases the work of a small boy to seal and stamp the letters of the institution, and this same small boy does not bother himself as he should in doing this work any more than he does with many other things; it is not the small boy's nature. Consequently the letter bound for Tokyo bears the same amount of postage that does one going to the next town. It is a small matter, and occurs on both sides of the water, and while no one insists it is a proper state of affairs, still it is too small a matter in the end to engage in a war of words about, and PUBLIC LIBRARIES must ask our English friends to bear with the failing till the race of small boys improves, and the American librarians to forbear to answer back the Iconoclast till he gets in a better temper.

THE different plans of appraisal of works of fiction started by some of the larger libraries, notably in Springfield, Mass., and in Philadelphia, cannot but result in closer relations between the libraries where they are working, and thus result in a widening of library influence. The plans are simple and effective, and there is nothing to prevent some such plans being carried out in a large number of libraries, and particularly in the libraries having a large club patronage. It is an idea which, if properly treated, will be of great personal benefit to librarians who are sometimes a little too hard worked to give the attention they would like to passing judgment on the large amount of fiction necessary to meet the demands of their patrons. We shall be glad to aid in this work in any way possible, and ask those who find helpful ways of doing any work to write PUBLIC LIBRARIES about it, in order that others may benefit thereby.

IT is a matter to be deplored that the Library section of the N. E. A. has not

as yet enlisted enough teachers and school people in its plans to get a more correct view of the work that lies before it into the minds of both teachers and librarians. In the petition for the admission of the section, which was presented to the council of the N. E. A. at Buffalo, in 1896, the main reason for its formation was thus presented:

In connection with these school libraries a great many questions have arisen, and are constantly arising, questions not yet satisfactorily answered—as, for instance, in regard to the number of books that should be included in them; the character of these books; the best reading for the young; the best reference books for the young; questions of lending, of access, of manner of use, of influence, etc. These are all matters which intimately concern the teachers. They are matters that, in a different field, have been discussed by librarians in the annual conference of the American Library Association and in their library journals. Owing to the great demands on the librarians of public libraries in other directions, and owing to the peculiar nature of the questions which arise in regard to school libraries, it is not possible for professional librarians, as such, to discuss, to propound, or to answer, as they should be answered, the questions in regard to school libraries already hinted at.

No one should question the great work that lies before both public schools and public libraries, but neither, if attending to its own field, will have time or knowledge to bestow on the work of the other. There is a field for coöperation, but its lines should be distinctly marked, and the work therein recognized as coöperative.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES can only speak from the outside of these things which ought to occupy the attention of the members of this section, and if its work ever accomplishes much of benefit, it must be done principally by the school people.

## Periodicals in Reference Work\*

Part II

### The Difficulties of Completing Sets of Periodicals

Frederick Winthrop Faxon

We have considered the great value to a library of periodicals properly made available for use. We now come to the methods of obtaining the sets needed. The second-hand market must be depended on almost entirely, and while we seldom see bargains in complete files, odd blocks of almost any set are common, and the low price is often too great a temptation to withstand.

It would hardly seem necessary to speak of the advantage of complete sets over broken files if, in going about through the libraries of the country, I did not see so many cases where a portion here and a few volumes there had been bought by former librarian or trustee to be a constant source of irritation and regret to the present management.

If an imperfect set is bought, it will surely need to be completed at some future time as the library grows. The chances of completing a defective set are daily becoming less owing to the enormous and constantly increasing demands made upon the available material by our public and college libraries. No one not in constant touch with the market can safely purchase portions of a set. It is necessary to know which volumes to buy first—volumes without which no set, except the common ones, can be completed except by the merest chance, or by the payment of a sum almost sufficient to purchase another set. These key volumes, around which a set may be built complete, are not always the first, as in Nation, Critic, or Cosmopolitan. They may be in the middle, as in Littell's living age or New England historical and genealogical register. They may be at the very end, as in Archaeologia, Foreign quarterly review, Science, Hunt's merchant's magazine, and many others, both alive and dead.

\*Read at the Interstate Conference at Evanston, Feb. 22, 1898.

It is sometimes argued that a set with a few volumes forever missing is better than a whole one at a much higher price. Undoubtedly this would be so were all the various volumes equally useful. But why are a few volumes so scarce as to be worth a third or half of the price of the whole set. It is not luck, or always a short edition. It often means that these volumes contained some especially valuable material which caused the edition to be literally worn out in use. If once in such demand it will continue, and therefore the call comes more often for missing volumes than for those in the library. Many people think the demand for a missing book makes a more lasting impression on the mind, and that the call is really an average one. Why, may we inquire, do nearly all the slightly imperfect sets of a given periodical lack the same volumes? A comparison of the catalogs of various libraries will show this. It is not luck. Consider the pecuniary side alone, and still the balance is in favor of the set bought all at once, and not in fragments. It costs more to buy at retail than by wholesale. A set made up by taking 10 volumes in exchange from another library, buying 20 more of a dealer (either because they are so cheap, or to encourage your local bookman), and then watching auctions to fill the gap, finally succeeding by the purchase of the missing 10 and 10 other duplicates of what you already have. This plan is almost always more expensive than the purchase of a set all at once—even if after infinite trouble you manage to exchange the 10 duplicates with some fellow-sufferer.

Librarians seldom consider their time of any money value when they thus try to turn bookseller. If they did the difference in favor of full sets would be more marked.

It seems to me that the librarian of today has more than enough to do in his work with the public—in increasing the usefulness of the books, in aiding the schools, the debating societies and literary clubs, and reaching out for new readers; devising new methods of work

better adapted to the local needs; doing a thousand and one things which no one can do so well as he. He ought not to have the bother and worry of doing what can be better delegated to a specialist. He does not save any money by his attention to making up broken sets, and his time is worth more than money if he is a proper man for his position.

The magazine field is an interesting one from its very perplexity. It is always showing new problems to one concerned in completing sets. To avoid the pitfalls which would be encountered by picking up sets in portions is easy. Sets can usually be bought in which all the volumes are present, especially if one plans for a purchase some time ahead, and is not in too great a hurry. Even in buying full files it is well to be sure there are no extra numbers or supplements necessary to make the series complete. For example, few would know of the supplement to Popular science monthly if it was not indexed by Poole. How many libraries now possess the no. 21 of this supplement? This was not indexed in Poole.

It is well, therefore, when buying sets, either to consult several other copies in order to be sure you have all, or to take the advice of reliable persons who have already made such a comparison. The latter course has not been possible until recently, but now there are several sources where such information can be obtained among the dealers in periodical sets. With all your sets completed from vol. 1 to the end, you may at last experience the pleasures of a rest after a task well done. Not so; it is just here that your trouble really begins. All before has been more or less of a task, and has taken patience and perseverance; now comes the exasperating, irritating struggle to ensure the perfection of each volume by a page by page collation.

Some librarians say every volume bought should at once be collated. I think this not at all necessary with new books issued only as a whole, except in the case of art books, or those with

many plates. The public will quickly collate for you, and any reputable publisher will rectify such mistakes as are found in his books, because from their very nature these prove the publishers at fault. With second-hand books, especially periodicals for reference, collation is absolutely necessary. In the first place, periodicals issued at different times, and often carelessly bound, are seldom complete, and then some time might easily elapse before a reader found the mistake.

Periodicals are much more likely to be defective and troublesome than any other books in a library.

It is much easier for a periodical to be defective than complete; let me name a few reasons why:

The overworked exchange editor snips out a paragraph, the office boy removes the mangled remains from the waste basket and sells them. Thus Critic, Nation, and Publishers' weekly are most often defective.

The thrifty housewife decorates her chamber or sewing room with the engravings and frontispieces, then sells the text for old paper. The paper man saves magazines out to sell to the book dealer.

How many suites must be adorned with Eclectic magazine pictures—judging from the supply of "plateless" copies on the market.

The miserly publisher cannot afford to send out title and index with last number of a volume. He will send it if you request it, but you don't. It is the purchaser of the volume second-hand who asks it, and then, as Harper & Bros., say it is "out of stock and will not be reprinted." If this title is shut in loose it soon gets lost, and the final result is the same.

The careless reader soils the pages, or apparently has poured out his coffee to cool upon them. How else can these large, yellow stains be accounted for?

The joyfully inartistic child colors the pictures in a most weird style, like the supplement to the Sunday newspaper.

The village binder got at the set when

owned by the parson, and stripped off the last pages of text along with the advertisements, notes, or book criticisms. They were not missed until the student needed them.

Such causes for defects might be multiplied indefinitely when we consider the use of fingers for paper cutters, close trimming of margins, bad printing, duplicate signatures, loose supplements, and all such chances.

Therefore, collate sets at once, or arrange for collation, if possible, before delivery. It is hardly work a boy or girl can do correctly, for there are many puzzling things which need advanced study. There is a whole chapter of perversities that might be grouped under the head of "magazines apparently defective, but really perfect," and this class is the hardest of all for a collator to deal with.

Some publishers think it a worthy scheme to end a volume sooner than usual, just to test their patrons' powers of observation, or vary the monotony of a volume every six months.

McClures' magazine, vol. 7, has but five numbers, and some libraries have bound up November, 1897, at the end of vol. 7, and have thus unconsciously mislaid vol. 8, no. 1.

The overworked editor breaks down and retires to the seashore for a time. His magazine only awakens from its trance on his return.

Historical magazine, vol. 21, consists of January, February, and March, 1872; April, May, and June, 1873. Journal of speculative philosophy, vol. 22, is completed by January and April, 1888, September, 1892, and December, 1893.

The name changes, and the character of the periodical, but the volume number goes merrily on regardless.

Where are Munsey's magazine, 1-5? They are to be found as Munsey's weekly, a cheap, humorous sheet of no value whatever to a library.

Social economist, vol. 9, is followed by Gunton's magazine, vol. 10. But, on the other hand, Outing did not begin as "Wheelman" as every librarian supposes. A second edition of a num-

ber sometimes gives us all the text in a different type, and in a less number of pages, thus causing an apparent gap when the next number is added for binding.

Academy, London, 1:29-30, when missing, do not show anything missing.

An unrighteous desire to make advertisers pay higher prices causes the ads to be paged in. They will then be bound up and stay forever, says the manager, but somehow they do not. Spectator, London, pages some ads, and does not page others. This amuses the binder and worries the librarian.

The editor, planning on an elaborate contents, leaves plenty of room for it by beginning his volumes at page 7. He then concludes two pages of contents is all his volume will stand, and we hunt for pages 3 to 6 in vain.

Plates called for to illustrate Dr Losbilde's article were not published, as the professor could not supply the drawings in time. A little flyer on the cover states this and is soon lost, but the article referring to the plates is always in evidence.

Portrait and sketch of Gov. Blank causes us a long struggle, but we finally discover it was but a pen portrait.

This is a sample of the Democratic review abbreviated very aptly in Poole as the "Dem." review, which it surely is bibliographically. A prize ought to be given anyone who can show us vol. 39.

Some editions, conscience smitten, decide that certain volumes are not worthy of an index and title page, and so publish none. For example, Science, vols. 18, 21, 22, 23, and Our day, since published in Chicago.

Such are but a few of the perplexities the collator must encounter; each magazine is a law unto itself. Technical and foreign periodicals are even more exasperating than our popular ones, and the collator of transactions and publications of learned societies is fortunate if he or she works in a library where still hang Silence-in-this-room signs; or expression in words of his or her thoughts might lead to instant dismissal.

**Fiction Appraisal**

The public library of Springfield, Mass., has adopted the following plan to secure the help of some of its readers in determining the class and quality of its novels.

A block of alternate printed and blank sheets, with a narrow carbon paper between, is kept at the desk where the books are given out. The spaces on the printed sheet are filled in, and it given out with a novel. In this way the judgment of a large number of people on various books is received. The plan of the printed sheet is given below. The carbon paper preserves on the blank sheet the record of the book as it is filled in before being given out.

**The City Library Association, Springfield,  
Mass. The Library.**

FICTION—Adult and Juvenile—Appraisal.

Author.....

Title.....

Taken by.....

Date..... Bill of ..... Dated .....

Underscore your conclusions.

Recommended. Not recommended because

.....

.....

Suited to readers under 12? 12 to 18? Adults?  
Boy's story? Girl's story? Historical? What  
country?.....

What period?..... Problem novel?  
What subject?.....

Good description of modern life? Where?

Cheering? Depressing? Wholesome? Ex-  
citing? Tame? Humorous? Good English?  
Poor English? Strong? Weak? Silly? Un-  
duly sentimental? Pernicious?

Comments.....  
.....

**Duplicate Clearing House**

The A. L. A. committee reported at Philadelphia as to a national clearing house for library duplicates, and many were disappointed at what was reported. The expense of transportation may make it undesirable to send the ordinary duplicates all to a central point, and indicates the advantages of a duplicate clearing house in connection with each state library, these clearing houses in turn sending to Washington books that should be placed with regard to the whole country rather than to an individual state. The difficulties with the state system are two. First, that so few of the state libraries have either men or means to do any proper work, and I regret to say that so few state librarians have a creditable interest beyond drawing their salaries (which are usually disgracefully low). Something seems to be gained year by year, as here and there state librarians are appointed who really take an interest in their work and try to make it practically valuable to the commonwealth. With satisfactory librarians and proper financial support, the only objection to that plan would be the multiplication of agencies and an increase in the cost of a satisfactory administration, against which is the saving in transportation on the bulk of books which would be sent smaller distances, and the advantage of keeping the benefits of exchange within the same state. Of course these clearing houses could and should introduce a system of exchange with each other in some cases, though probably this work could be done a great deal better at Washington.

The difficulty at Washington is to find officeholders who are willing to take on the extra labor simply for the public good. We shall never have a satisfactory adjustment of the duplicate question till there is, in connection with the national library, a thoroughly organized department, having expert knowledge as to what is needed, and commendable zeal in meeting those wants. We have discussed this matter

for over 20 years, and I am clear that the serious difficulties connected with duplicates can be satisfactorily managed only when we get our central duplicate department for the entire country, which probably will do its best work by having a representative library in each state, preferably the state library itself if properly managed, to act as branches in the beneficent work. We simply must not give up the only practicable plan because some people are lazy or indifferent or selfish, and so put obstacles in the way. If these good friends will point out any other practicable way of making the books as useful, we should of course heed their objections. Till then they ought to let those help who will, rather than hinder those willing to give their time and labor to this important work.

As bearing on this I quote from my testimony before the joint committee of Congress:

You have on a rented floor over the postoffice in your city a public document division which is doing admirable work in distributing to the libraries of the country government publications. It has on hand some 30,000v., I think. It is collecting from libraries and other owners United States publications which they no longer require, classifying and shelving them so as to supply to other libraries books greatly needed to complete sets and meet real wants. This work is naturally a part of the national library. You have empty shelves that will hold all the books, and rooms for the small staff employed, and you would bring together the work that belongs together. Besides the government publications, there will be received great quantities of books as gifts, many of which will duplicate those already in your collection.

The national library should have full power to place these extra volumes where they will do most good to the country, exchanging some, giving others to small libraries, and when they get books so much worn or so commonly duplicated as not to be worth further preservation, sending them to

the paper mill. This is a function which it is very dangerous to trust to any but the most skillful, for they will send to the mill today, under the guise of trash, books that next year or in the next generation will be eagerly sought and highly valued. It ought to be known to every library, and to every private book owner, that he may send by cheap freight to the National library any literary material, with the assurance that under its skillful management it will be sure to accomplish the maximum amount of good, and that nothing of value will be wasted. Much of this work could be done, as we are doing it in New York, by the State library, but there is a very large field that is national rather than local in its scope, and there are many who will give their books to the finest library in the world as a matter of sentiment or national pride when they would not give to their small and modest local library.

MELVIL DEWEY.

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At the Atlantic City meeting of the New Jersey library association, a committee was appointed to publish and distribute throughout New Jersey, where libraries are not in existence, the laws relating to the formation and support of libraries, the statistics in relation to the number of libraries in the state, the number of towns without libraries, and such other matters as would be of interest in stimulating the growth and increase of the number of free public libraries, and to encourage their establishment under municipal control.

The committee has issued a circular letter calling for contributions to assist in carrying on the work. The treasurer is Miss C. G. Lambert, public library, Passaic, N. J., who will receipt for all money received.

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A graduate of a library school, with some experience in a college library, desires a position either as cataloger in a large, or librarian of a small, library. Would undertake the organization of small new libraries. Address M. H., care of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

**Tour of the Traveling Librarians**

After the busy week of sightseeing in London and Paris which followed the visit to Oxford, all were glad that the city of Cambridge was the objective point of the next move. It was a party tired in body and mind, and almost ready to say enough, that gathered at the Waterloo station on Saturday morning, July 31. But there had been much scattering of the clan during the previous week, so that there was a little novelty in the association again in the narrow compartments of the railway cars as they flew through the green fields toward Cambridge. There were experiences to exchange, comparisons to make on the different routes taken in the previous week, and so by the time the end of the journey was reached, everyone was in a better mood to appreciate the beauties and pleasures that lay before them.

The party met here the one really poor hotel which fell to their lot in their travels. The accommodations were of the most meager and the service was execrable. Dr Brown, of Boston, expressed the sentiments of all the party in the following lines:

The Bull at Cambridge is a very dangerous animal, and is to be carefully avoided by all timorous travelers; its poor feed gives it a very lean and hungry aspect; its nature is morose and irascible, and the red rags which the Americans flaunt in his face drive him nearly crazy. Beware The Bull!

Aside from the momentary discomfort of the stay at The Bull, the visit to Cambridge stands out in the minds of most of the travelers as par excellence in all the tour. The environment of the town is beautiful, situated as it is on the banks of the beautiful Cam river, surrounded by typical English fields and dales. The ancient and dignified collection of colleges and chapels while bearing all the charming flavor of antiquity, are free from the somberness and weight which seemed to pervade Oxford. There were no iron bars, sunshine penetrated all the "quads," color and brightness were everywhere. The

people of the colleges were of the present, and while the specialists were interested in their particular lines, they were no less so in the affairs of the day and particularly in the work and ambitions of the American people.

The plans and rules of college life in England are very different from those in our country, and we were much interested in the explanations of them. The colleges are, in government and finances, independent of each other, except as all are under the oversight of the university. The university professors are usually devoted to the law, divinity, or medical schools, or to some special course of university lectures; but the teaching of the undergraduates is carried on by the Fellows attached to each college and the tutors, while the final examinations for a degree are held under the supervision of the university. Some colleges are better endowed than others, though existing side by side, and some have more clerical gifts within their power, and also more scholarships. In Cambridge, as in Oxford, the colleges differ in size of buildings and number of students, some having only 70 or 80, while others, like St. John's and Trinity, have 300 and 600 respectively.

In each college the oversight of students is quite particular along certain lines, far more so than at any college in our country. Each college has high walls around its gardens, and with special protection against climbing; and, as the windows of rooms on the ground floor looking out upon the street are occupied for other purposes than as dormitories, no egress is possible except through the huge doorway or gate, which is shut at a stated hour every evening. No one can pass this gate after that hour except by the knowledge of the porter, who lives adjoining, and must report the student to the proper college officer. As the student must be present at morning chapel, and to reach it must pass this gate, though he may remain out all night, his absence will thus be known by the porter, and reported. This supervision, which would be amazing to many an Amer-

ican student, has been so long maintained that it is here recorded as a matter of course, and students having visitors are expected to see that they leave the college before the hour of gate-shutting, which is never late.

The arrangements for meals are also peculiar, and have some advantages, while they lose the pleasant relations of student club life, as in our own land. Each student's breakfast, so far as the meat and bread are concerned, is sent him at a certain hour from the college kitchen. He has his own butter, and makes his own tea (few drink coffee); but in the early evening dinner is provided for all together in the hall, where also the Fellows and tutor eat at tables on a dais. Each college has its hall, generally hung with the portraits of benefactors and distinguished graduates, and the windows of stained glass adorned with suggestive characters, or the coats-of-arms of the college and founder. The seats are usually long benches, and chairs are rarely, if ever, provided. These halls are generally quite beautiful, and that at Trinity, Cambridge, is very handsome. The head of the college, variously called president, master, warden or rector, occupies a residence forming part of the college buildings, while the other married professors, or Fellows, may live at a distance. Services are rarely held in the college chapel on Sunday, the student being left free to attend services at the University church, which is in the heart of the town.

The librarians of the various colleges were untiring in showing their precious treasures in the way of manuscripts, early prints and illuminated books. The library of Corpus Christi was particularly rich in its valuable mss. We gazed with reverend awe on Becket's psalter, autograph letters from men high on church calendar and the roll of world's fame; an old Anglo-Saxon chronicle from invasion of Julius Caesar to 1070; the four gospels in Latin; the version of St Jerome written before the end of the fifth century, and sent by

Gregory the Great to Augustine, first archbishop of Canterbury.

At St John's library we were delighted with the beautiful old carved wood bookcases, with the little recess in the end of each case where is placed a class catalog made in 1650, plainly written and in good preservation. A beautiful collection of early English books is also here.

Trinity library has perhaps the most interesting collections. The building was designed and built by Christopher Wren in 1660, and with its high windows is a light, airy place. There is a large collection of ancient pottery, which was found in the yard; a fine collection of Greek and Roman coin; original manuscripts by Bacon, Milton and Thackeray. An outline of Paradise lost, written five years before the poem was printed, shows the intention of modeling its form after a Greek tragedy in five acts. "Through that long walk of limes we went" and faced the windows of Hallam's room overlooking the green. The Queen has apartments in Trinity hall opening out on the large quad, though they are not occupied; but the master showed with pride the golden tablet on wall which confirms the fact that Her Gracious Majesty and the Prince Consort were there at one time. At Magdalen library we saw the original diary written by Samuel Pepys, and his library, which was a gift to this library. But time is too short to tell of all the wonderful things.

The very interesting account of these collections, given in an earlier number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES by Mr Pink of the Free public library of Cambridge, was somewhat a preparation, but the large number of them was a delight and wonder. The Free public library, by the way, visited on Saturday evening, seemed more like the libraries at home than any of the institutions we visited. A changing crowd stood in line for nearly three hours, in spite of the fact that they were waited on at the rate of one a minute. We had to revise our opinion of the superiority of our charging systems, with the fact be-

fore us that notwithstanding the ledger system they used, the people were served quickly. We found several labor-saving devices and conveniences in this library which seemed to be a little ahead of the average library we visited. Their bulletins, printed matter, reports and the like, were extremely good. One of the finest collections of Shakespeariana in the country is in this building.

The social side of our visit, while not of the kind to tire, was full of the graceful kindness and generous welcome which leaves a warm glow in the hearts of guests. Invitations to dinner in some of the noted halls, to garden teas, and to informal visits to the delightful homes are pleasures the memories of which delight us yet. On Sunday a number enjoyed the services in the different churches and chapels, others drifted for miles down the Cam river amid the most beautiful landscape imaginable, and others walked through the beautiful groves surrounding the colleges. In the afternoon a garden party was given by the Mayor, Horace Darwin and his charming wife. The cordiality and the graceful hospitality of Mr and Mrs Darwin and their friends who assisted them quite won the hearts of every visitor, and an Anglo-American alliance treaty would have received the hearty support then and there of every traveler who reluctantly said good-bye to these charming people.

### Loan System

#### Virginia Dodge, Cedar Rapids (Ia.) public library

In taking up the loan system there are two sides to consider: First, we place the public for whose use the library is designed; and, second, the library. The two come into direct contact over the loan desk, and the usefulness and power of the library in the community depends largely upon the intelligence and ability of the person who gives that public what it wants, both in books and information.

Since so much depends upon this position, due attention should be given

to the qualifications of the attendant who is placed at the loan desk, and it is suggested that the old-time habit of putting apprentices in this important position be done away with to the better serving of the public. Some of the qualifications of such an attendant are, tact, which must be inborn and ever afterwards cultivated; courtesy, which, if not inborn, must be permanently acquired; good memory, self-composure, promptness and accuracy, systematic habits, wide knowledge of books and authors, a knowledge also of spoken languages, and above all, an unfailing enthusiasm; for philosophers tell us that under stress of enthusiasm one can accomplish tasks otherwise impossible, then with unlimited resources the attendant may palm off really good books on borrowers. If, being endowed with these requirements, a person is raised to the dignity of an attendant in charge of the loan desk, let him not be puffed up with unseemly pride, but let him studiously avoid anything that resembles patronizing manners and dictatorial speech, and let him spare no trouble consistent with attention due to other borrowers, in giving information and assistance to anyone who may ask it.

In considering the needs of the two parties concerned, we find the characteristic which appeals most strongly to the public is the speed with which a book may be received and delivered; also it must be remembered that the less part the borrower has in the operation the better he likes the system; the library must ask of him only those facts absolutely necessary to fill his order, and he must be kept in ignorance of everything which might suggest red tape.

Now, on the part of the library, it, being a business institution, must keep a record of its transactions. It should be able to tell whether the library is really of use to the community; in order to do this, it must be in possession of certain statistics. It must also know whether the best books are really called for; whether more people are reading

than at this time a year ago; what the prevailing taste of the community is; whether people are gradually accumulating private libraries at the expense of the public; whether everyone is getting an equal chance at the popular books; where is a book that people are calling for. It is the question to get these statistics at least cost of time and trouble to the public, and with least expenditure of labor and least risk of error on the part of the library. To this end many systems and devices have been formed.

The two systems best known are the ledger and card system, the slip being only a rudimentary form of the card system and keeping but a temporary record. The ledger differs from the card system in keeping the entries in a book. It has these advantages over the card system:

Entries cannot be lost or mislaid.

Takes up less space than same information in any other form.

Handled rapidly.

These are offset by certain disadvantages:

Impossible to change the order of accounts to alphabetic or any other to get at certain facts.

Pages when soiled cannot be replaced.

In course of time an active reader may have several library numbers which would tend to confusion.

But one person can use the ledger at a time.

The other well-known form, the card system, has an advantage over the ledger in admitting of any arrangement, or change of arrangement, at any time. This system is capable of so many modifications, that it is difficult to decide upon an arrangement which is most convenient, accurate, and economical. Before deciding upon a card system for a small public library, it is necessary to consider the general principles underlying the loan system. It must be remembered that "more than most other questions of library management the loan system must be adapted to the library, and there is no

royal method suited in all its details to every library alike." But there are certain factors to be considered in each case, such as, the number of volumes in a library; the number of volumes allowed to each reader; the number of borrowers, whether personally known to the librarian; whether notices are to be sent in all cases to delinquents; the rapidity with which borrowers change residence; also methods of reaching and helping borrowers. And one important step has been taken in this direction by the two-book system, that is, allowing the reader to take two books at a time, one other than fiction, the object being to encourage him in this way to read something besides fiction. This idea is worked out in many ways by many libraries; in one, there are two cards, one fiction and one non-fiction; in another, one card which is divided into fiction and non-fiction columns; in another, the distinction is made by stamping fiction entries in blue ink, non-fiction entries in red ink; in still another, the entries are not divided in any way, and it is claimed that the only difficulty is in an occasional carelessness at the receiving window in checking off the wrong card, but this does not occur often enough to make it serious.

Then there are certain questions to be considered which are answered by the charging system. Those answered by the book card:

Is a given book out?

If out, who has it?

When did he take it out?

When is it to be sent for as overdue?

Has the book ever been out?

How many times and when has the book been out?

By an arrangement according to date:

How many and what books were issued on a given day?

How many and what books are due on a given day?

How many and what books of a given class are issued on a given day?

How many and what books are now out charged to borrowers?

How many and what books are now at the bindery?

Has a certain book been rebound, and when?

What books have been discarded.

By an account kept with borrower's card:

Has a given borrower a book charged to him?

How many books are charged to him?

What books are charged to him?

How many persons have now books charged to them?

Are these the persons who registered earliest or latest?

How often has the borrower made use of the library?

Has a borrower had a given book before?

What has been the character of the borrower's reading?

Is the borrower's card still in force and used?

Has this person a right to draw books?

But it does not follow that that system which answers the most questions is the best, for it may be at expense and labor out of proportion to the value of information—a point each library must decide for itself, for the college library, free city library, and village differ widely as to patronage and resources.

In conclusion, I would suggest that simplicity be made the keynote for a charging system for a small public library, for, in the words of Miss Plummer, "it implies speed, thus fulfilling the great demand of the public, and it insures greater accuracy, which is of importance to the library."

Among the helpful things done by the Chicago Normal School library is the preparation of special lists of books on various topics connected with the work of the teachers. These are printed for distribution among the students. The call numbers of the different Chicago libraries where the book may be had, as well as the numbers of the Normal School library, are also printed. Lists on American history and nature study have been printed recently.

## Library Schools

### Drexel

The fifth annual commencement of the Drexel institute was held June 14, in the Auditorium of the institute. The exercises included an address on technical education by the Rev Dr George Dana Boardman. The graduates of the Library school numbered 14.

### Illinois

#### Graduates. Degree of B. L. S.

Grace Osborne Edwards (A. B. Wellesley). Thesis: Library bulletins. Bibliography: Reading list on history of Illinois, 1673-1861.

#### Certificate\*

Louise Beerstecher Krause. Thesis: American publishers' series. Bibliography: Reading list on library architecture.

Grace O. Edwards, B. L. S. '98, has been appointed assistant cataloger at the library of the University of Illinois.

Laura R. Gibbs will have charge of the loan desk next year.

### Pratt

The work of the class during the third term consists largely of practical work in the several departments of the library. In addition to this, the students have visited a number of the libraries of New York and vicinity, the special methods of which are compared and discussed. In addition to these library visits, the class attended an auction sale at Bangs, obtained an idea of the booksellers' point of view from visits to Charles Scribner's Sons and G. E. Stechert's, watched the processes of bookbinding during an afternoon spent at the establishment of Neumann Brothers, and, thanks to the courtesy of F. E. Hopkins, had the rare pleasure of a visit to the Marion press.

The class graduates the full number, 20, that entered in October.

\* Not eligible to degree because of change in entrance requirements at time of transfer of the school in 1897.

Susan A. Hutchinson, '98, returned to the Blackstone memorial library at Branford, Conn., as assistant librarian, on May 1.

Elsie Adams, '98, has been appointed librarian of the Polytechnic institute, Brooklyn, and will enter upon her duties September 15.

Harriet B. Gooch, '98, will be engaged during the summer at the library of Harvard university, in cataloging a collection of pamphlets.

Flora R. Petrie, '97, has given up a position as indexer at the New York Life insurance company to accept that of assistant at the Y. M. C. A. library, New York.

Mrs Henry H. Hustis, formerly head cataloger of the Pratt institute free library, has been engaged by the Warder library, Springfield, Ohio, to prepare their finding-list for printing.

Louise G. Hinsdale, '98, will be occupied during the summer in cataloging the library of Lakewood, N. J.

#### The Danger in Implied Criticism

One of the charter members of the A. L. A., widely known for active interest in good literature, recently sent a note to the publisher of a magazine of short stories, that the copy regularly received was not subscribed for, and as no one in the house read it that it might be discontinued. It was thought hardly fair to take the publication from the mails when no one was getting any benefit from it. We give the publishing company's reply, omitting names, as a warning to librarians that they must make an explicit statement, when returning any publication, that in their judgment it is unequaled for literary merit. Possibly a physician's certificate that the patient had been forbidden to read anything whatever would be accepted by the publishers as a sufficient cause for declining to subscribe:

"As to the literary merits of ——, we can only say that while we have found it possible to publish the cleanest and most fascinating story magazine in existence, it is not possible for us to

endow people with an understanding: the Creator alone can do that. And in cases where he has seen fit to bestow venom instead of brains and the gangrene of jealousy in place of intelligence, the ——— never finds a welcome we are glad to say.

In order that you may know what people of intelligence think of our publication, we inclose herewith copies of a few letters that tell their own story. Believe us with sincere sympathy,"

#### Charging System Wanted

Our charging system is the usual one in the New York circulating libraries. The reader's number and date is marked in pencil on the colored book card. Notwithstanding care, errors will creep in, and a number instead of being on the card 1124 will read 2411 or 1214. In the course of the year every library has more or less books lost through this source. I am looking for some sort of mechanical device to obviate this difficulty. I have had in mind some such plan as this, but this has serious objections. I would have a series of numbers for a rubber stamp prepared, one after the other, on tapes of 500 or 1000 each, and when a new reader is placed on the list, cut from this tape his corresponding number and glue it on his card. When he takes out a book use this for a stamp, and stamp the book card directly from the rubber stamp on the reader's card, and date in the usual way. This plan would be easy, cheap, and mistakes would be impossible, but the reader's cards would be very bulky to file, and the ink from the stamp would mar the fly-leaves of the book. In short, it would be unclean and in the way.

Some such plan would, I am sure, be adopted by all libraries using the regular card-charging system. I hope that this suggestion will set some wide-awake library economist to work, with the result of perfecting a very good system.

EDWIN WHITE GAILLARD,  
Webster Free Library  
New York City.

**American Library Association****Local information**

The 20th annual conference of the American library association will be held at Lakewood, New York, on Chautauqua lake. The headquarters will be in the Hotel Waldmere. The sessions of the conference will be held in the hotel assembly hall. The officers and committees will have offices near the hall.

Mail for visiting librarians should be addressed \_\_\_\_\_,

Lakewood, New York.

Care American Library Association.

Lakewood is five miles from Jamestown, a city of 25,000, with which it has convenient trolley, railway, and steamboat connections. Jamestown is the base of supplies for the lake resorts.

Steam ferries ply many times hourly between Lakewood, the resorts on the opposite side of the lake, and Celoron, two miles below.

The large steamers of the Red stack line make 24 runs daily up and down the lake (20 miles), stopping at Lakewood on each run. The round trip occupies four hours. Steamboat tickets in coupon books will be sold by the steamboat company, 10 tickets for \$1.50 or 20 for \$2.50. Each coupon is good between any two points on the lake.

Satisfactory livery stables are maintained at Lakewood, where carriages, bus, trap, or four-in-hand can be hired.

A fine boat livery is conducted, with a large fleet of St Lawrence skiffs for rent. Sailing craft and steam yachts of various sizes are also attached to this livery, and can be secured for individual use or for a party, with an experienced sailor or crew in charge.

During the summer the lake roads offer delightful bicycle rides. Information in full can be obtained of the bureau at the Waldmere regarding cycling routes, and the local consul of the League of American wheelmen will supply guides for cycling parties. First-class wheels in good condition will be for rental at the headquarters,

the rates being 25 cents an hour, \$1.50 a day, \$4 for the week.

Golf players will doubtless be interested in learning that links are laid out at Lakewood, where they can enjoy the popular game to their hearts' content.

The management of Chautauqua offers the librarians free admission to the assembly grounds from July 4 to 11. On Library day librarians will be transported to Chautauqua and return without charge.

One of the most interesting and helpful features of the association week at Lakewood will be the large exhibition that various publishers and dealers in library supplies have arranged for the week of the meetings. The value of such an exhibition and the interest which every librarian will take in it, are sure to make it one of the chief centers of attraction at the conference.

**Entertainment**

Some change has been made in the entertainment program, which is now as follows:

Monday evening, July 4, there will be an informal reception at the Waldmere, Lakewood, to be followed by a display of fireworks over the waters of the lake. The day of Monday will be left open for greetings and individual visits to points of interest.

Tuesday evening, July 5, a boat ride will be given over the lower portion of the lake, visiting Celoron for a theater party at the famous garden theater. Illuminations will be a feature.

Wednesday evening, July 6, at 7 o'clock, Mr and Mrs William H. Proudfoot will entertain the association at a garden party on their spacious grounds at Shadyside, adjoining Lakewood. This will be the principal social feature of conference week.

Thursday, July 7, will be Library day at the Chautauqua assembly. On this day the sessions of the conference will be held on the assembly grounds.

Late Friday afternoon a trolley ride will be given over the city and suburban lines of the Jamestown street railway system.

### Library Meetings

**Connecticut**—The meeting of the Library association in Bristol on June 7, at the public library, was of unusual interest because the topics discussed were all closely related.

The session was opened by a very interesting and timely address by the Hon. E. Peck of Bristol on The legitimate aspirations of a village library. He said by that term he meant such libraries as Bristol has. Do not specialize in popular fiction, and on the other hand, do not cater entirely to the people of culture. Most of the books of current fiction in 10 years will be dead trash, but the best literature will always be wanted. Strive for breadth of scope; choose broad books rather than the special, and be solicitous to have the fiction and magazines of a quality to attract those who are not familiar with the best literature. One field in which every village library should specialize is that of local history. All public documents of local character, town reports, church manuals, in short everything connected with the town, should be collected for the needs of the future historian. The public library should be democratic, not an apostle to the genteels, not over punctilious about decorum, and should serve the artistic needs of the town along with its other needs by providing photographs of works of art, either to be used in the schools or on its own walls. No aspiration can be too high to be legitimate, but it may be too high to be attained.

Corinne Bacon, of the New Britain institute, followed with an exceedingly well-prepared paper on What constitutes morality in fiction? She said that the moral novel must deal with the whole of life. A book which preaches to get rich, honestly if one can, but get rich anyhow, is immoral, and a novel which confuses the ideas of right and wrong is immoral. A book may be so untrue to life that it is immoral, and a book may be such a mixture of the impossible and the realistic that it may re-

sult in a false, unhealthy story. Truth should be the most important factor of fiction, and there is often greater danger in the false picture of life than in the mentioned evils of life. Fiction is often made harmful, not by what is put in, but by what is left out. The question of morality is a question of treatment rather than the subject-matter. A book may help one person while it may hurt another, and likewise a book may hurt a person at one age while it may help him at another. The main test of a book is the personal test. Choose your books as you would your friends.

At 12 o'clock a recess was taken and through the thoughtful courtesy of the trustees a trolley car was placed at the disposal of the guests and a ride was taken to Lake Compounce, where dinner was enjoyed.

At 2:30 the meeting opened with an enjoyable paper by H. W. Kent, of the Peck Memorial library of Norwich, on Library museums. He said that the museums of science and national history are most valuable, and the day is not far away when the scientifically arranged museum will become a necessity. In our world of today the museum takes third place, all systems of education having first, and public libraries second place. A librarian who has the time and taste for collecting and arranging bibliographical details of books, such as examples of printing, paper and parchments, inks, bindings, curiosities of illustrations from earliest ages down to the present time, would be doing a good work in instructing his or her community. Local history material, such as photographs, engravings, maps, public documents of all kinds, should be arranged, labeled, and used in the instruction in the public schools.

A. D. Ristein, of the Hartford steam boiler company, followed with a helpful paper on Scientific books in a small library. He said that he was optimistic in most things, but in the realm of scientific books he was sorry to say there were really very few first-class works. There ought to be those written in a dignified, comprehensive style, but

those men who can write such ones will not. Every small library should give attention to out-of-door sciences. Books such as those by Shaler and Gibson are always useful, but books on physiology and such sciences become obsolete in a short time. Mr Risteen indorsed the following list of books for a public library on popular science: Appleton's Library of useful stories, Young's General astronomy, Packard's Elements of zoölogy, Roscoe's Elements of chemistry, Dr Barry's Bacteria, Hopkins' Experimental physics, Ganot's Physics, Le Comte's Elements of geology, Huxley and Reynold's Chemistry, Prudden's Story of bacteria, Prudden's Dust and its dangers; periodicals: Nature, American electrician. He also suggested that the Connecticut Library association procure the assistance of experts to recommend books in the various lines of science as they are published, rather than rely upon reviews.

The last exercise was an account from a number of librarians present, who spoke of the special features of the past year's work in their different libraries.

ANGELINE SCOTT.

Pennsylvania—The last meeting of the library club till fall was held May 23, at the Wagner free institute of science in Philadelphia. The meeting was called to order by Mr Barnwell, who introduced Dr E. J. Nolan, librarian of the Academy of natural sciences. Dr Nolan delivered an exceedingly clever address of an hour, detailing the literature of natural history. It is impossible to complain that he did not begin far back enough, as he reported Adam as being the first zoölogist when he named all the beasts of the field. He informed his listeners cursorily, that Eve was the first botanist and Noah the first museum collector, and then gave an interesting account of the labors of Aristotle and the narrow escape of his works from total destruction, describing how the manuscripts had been bequeathed to Theophrastus, by him again bequeathed to the latter's favorite disciple Neleus, who retained

for himself the manuscripts of the two philosophers, and how in order to save them from seizure by the Royalty of Pergamus, his descendants hid them in a cellar, where they remained exposed to damp and worms for two centuries, when they were sold to Apellicon of Athens, who prepared from them a new edition of Aristotle's works, correcting errors, filling in gaps, and leading the way to the recovery of much that had been lost or very inaccurately handed down. His account of the labors of Linnæus, and his success in establishing the binomial nomenclature, was followed up by accounts of the great Buffon, Cuvier, and others. His address was charming, and gave an insight into the thousands of volumes that go to make up a library on natural history. A very cordial vote of thanks was extended to him for his interesting address, and after the reference of the names of some new members to the executive committee for election, the meeting broke up with the comforting feeling that the series of addresses during the past season had been of an unusually interesting and high character. At the next meeting an address is to be given by James Warrington on books of Psalmody, illustrated by an exhibition of rare books upon the subject, and aided by a double quartette to illustrate the growth and development of this interesting section of music. Mr Barnwell closed the proceedings with an earnest and cordial address to the members, pressing upon them the benefit to be obtained by joining in the forthcoming A. L. A. convention at Chautauqua.

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The A. L. A. yearbook for 1898 gives graphic descriptions and directions for outings for odd hours at Lakewood. The entire lake abounds in picturesque roads and bypaths, and the visitor awheel, afloat, or afoot cannot go amiss in his search for scenic beauty.

There are many interesting places easily accessible from Lakewood which will repay the time spent in visiting them.

**Library Notes****Melvil Dewey**

**Straight edges.**—Many librarians never learn how much quicker and more convenient for many purposes is a standard straight edge than the ordinary scissors, shears, or even the more convenient knife which many men use so skillfully. An uncommon but very useful form of small, straight edge is a standard P card 7.5x12.5cm. made of tin with sharp edges, with a button in the center. With this any paper can be quickly torn down to the standard size for filing in the card index. The more usual size is 7.5x20cm. It takes the place of both rule and shears and is much quicker. For taking short clippings from newspapers and many other uses, one familiar with the straight edge can do the work quicker and better than with scissors.

**Gift lists in columns.**—Many libraries through carelessness print their gift lists in single columns, with long leaders from the name to the number of volumes or pamphlets given. In most cases the list would go in half the space by using double columns, for nine tenths of the entries require only half the width. But if one wishes to pad out a report with blanks and leaders he could at least put the number of volumes just before the name, so that the eye should be saved the perceptible strain of following the leaders across the page. Some readers do not notice this, others do not understand it, but the fact remains that there is a perceptible strain, and the delicate gravity chronometers in recent years have been able to measure and put down in figures what before we had to trust to theory. A librarian by his position is bound to use the best forms in printing, and no one after having attention called to this matter should be guilty of using leaders in such places when it is cheaper and easier to bring the figure close to the name.

Reading furnishes the mind only with materials of knowledge, it is thinking that makes what is read ours.—*John Locke.*

**Questions and Answers**

*Q. 24.* What is considered the average time necessary to discharge a book and charge another to the borrower?

*A.* So much enters into such a question that it is not easy to strike an average. Much depends on how many people are employed in the work, how distant the book stacks are from the loan desk, charging system used, etc.

*Q. 25.* Is it customary for the library board to consult the librarian on matters pertaining to the policy of the library before making a decision thereon?

*A.* It seems that such a thing certainly should be done. In a summary prepared by F. M. Crunden the replies of 37 librarians to such a question, 22 answered affirmatively, and the remainder answered "generally" or "nearly always."

*Q. 26.* What is the average length of vacation in libraries in towns of 20,000?

*A.* From a number of instances it seems probable that four weeks in the year is the average length of the librarian's vacation and two weeks for the assistants.

*Q. 27.* What is considered average time for preparing a new book for circulation?

*A.* This depends somewhat on the book. For an average book of travel or history, where there is little doubt about classification and catalog points, a good average is 30 minutes. A trial experiment, without telling the object of the work, footed up as follows: Checking bill and order entries, 5 m.; collating, 5 m.; cutting, embossing, pocket and label, 6 m.; accessioning, 3 m.; classifying and marking, 5 m.; shelf list card, 2 m.; book card, 2 m.; catalog cards, 12 m.; time, 40 m.

*Q. 28.* Where can an accurate list of the libraries of the United States, and statistics regarding them, be obtained?

*A.* There is no absolutely correct list so far as we know. The list published by the Bureau of Education in Washington is the best source for the information wanted, but that has a good deal of "dead timber" on it.

## News from the Field

## East

The Nichols memorial library at Kingston, N. H., was dedicated June 9.

E. H. Anderson, of the Carnegie library, Pittsburg, has gone abroad with his wife.

John Curtis, of Boston, has given \$4000 to the public library of his native town, Hanover, Mass.

Ex-mayor F. C. Sayles will present a library building to Pawtucket, R. I., as a memorial to his wife.

Dr G. E. Wire, of Evanston, Ill., has been appointed librarian of the Bar association of Worcester, Mass.

Clara Bidwell, for several years in the Somerville (Mass.) public library, was married May 18 to C. H. Warren.

Sam Walter Foss, the poet, has been elected librarian of Somerville (Mass.) public library to succeed the late J. S. Hayes.

Isabel Ely Lord has been elected librarian of Bryn Mawr college, to succeed Miss Palmer, who resigns after 10 years' service.

The report of the New Haven (Conn.) public library gives the circulation for last year as 105,888v.; number of volumes added, 2301.

Everett E. Thompson, of Springfield, Mass., has been elected assistant librarian of Amherst college, to succeed the late Edward Dickinson.

Alice F. Ordway, for 15 years assistant state librarian of Kansas, died from an overdose of chloral, June 1, in a hotel at Greenfield, Mass.

The Weeks memorial library, at Greenland, N. H., was dedicated May 19. It is built of pressed brick with marble trimmings, and is furnished throughout with the latest appliances.

The city library of Springfield, Mass., held a most beautiful exhibition of original pictures of St Mark, Venice, in the art building on June 1-3. Prepara-

tion for it was made by issuing a bulletin, a bit of artistic work containing an annotated list of the principal books relating to Venice in the library.

John Nicholas Brown gave the sum of \$200,000 to erect the public library building for the city of Providence a little more than a year ago. He has recently increased this amount to nearly a quarter of a million in order that the building may be placed in proper surroundings. The additional amount at the disposal of the library trustees will enable them to place a porch, entrance steps, a terrace and balustrade, with enclosing wall and other needed details, around the library buildings proper.

## Central Atlantic

The New York free circulating library opened its tenth branch at 215 E. Thirty-fourth st June 6. The library occupies the three upper floors of a former private residence that has been altered to suit its purposes. On the main floor is a well-selected library of about 4000v., which is operated on the open-shelf system. In the rear are reading tables, and on the second floor is a small reference library and a reading room furnished with all the newspapers and magazines. The third floor includes the cloak room for the library staff, rooms for janitor's use, etc.

## Central

The new public library at Crawfordsville, Ind., was opened June 4.

Pauline Helen Hardin, the new state librarian of Kentucky, took her position June 6.

Joseph Hammond, of Geneseo, Ill., has given \$10,000 to the city for a new library building.

The Decatur (Ill.) public library reports 16 850v. in the library, and a circulation of 96,648v.

Elizabeth B. Wales, formerly librarian at Braddock, Pa., has been elected librarian at Quincy, Ill.

A new public library has opened in Decatur, Ind., under the direction of

the public school board. Mrs Ira Blossom is librarian.

The school board of Detroit has made an appropriation to sustain a circulating library of pictures in the public schools of that city.

The public library of Galesburg, Ill., will be reclassified and a new card catalog made. Clara Samuels has been employed to do the work.

The Wisconsin library commission will place reading matter in the form of traveling libraries among the Wisconsin troops in camp in the south.

The Jacksonville (Ill.) public library reports a circulation of 36,971 with 10,077v. in the library. The open-shelf system is followed in this library with satisfactory results.

Mrs. A. F. Parsons has resigned her position as librarian of Bay City, Mich., and will be married shortly to Archibald McDonnell, a lawyer of Bay City, and who is also a trustee of the library.

The first report of Cedar Rapids (Iowa) public library has just been published. The library has been open since Jan. 15, 1897, and has steadily increased in scope and usefulness since.

Mary L. Jones has been appointed assistant to State Librarian Brigham of Iowa, who proposes to reclassify and reorganize the library and prepare a complete card catalog of the books in it.

The report of the Morrison-Reeves library at Richmond, Ind., gives the no. of books in library, 20,700; circulation, 54,421v. Salaries, \$2636; paid for books, \$968. The library has made a government deposition.

In the absence of the regular pastor Dr William Colledge, Prof. Zella Allen Dixson occupied the pulpit of the People's Church, Aurora, Ill., Sunday morning, June 5. The subject of the discourse was The intellectual environment of the citizen.

The traveling library plan, carried out by the Women's council of Minneapolis, is giving great satisfaction. Miss

Countryman reports 825v. received and \$46 55. Twelve libraries of 50v. each have been sent out, and calls for four more are on our hands.

The St Joseph (Mo.) public library has issued a supplement to the classified finding list by printing the linotype lists which have appeared in the newspapers of that city from time to time. The library gives the papers new lead in exchange for these lists.

The report of the St Louis public library shows 120,000v. in the library; total issue 920,680v.: salaries, \$23,000; books, \$17,000; enrollment, 40,000 persons; most popular novel, *Les Misérables*; delivery stations, 34; besides the street-car barns, Y. M. C. A., and Sunday-schools.

Oshkosh, Wis., is sure now of a public library. Some time ago a bequest of \$80,000 for a public library was left to the city provided a like sum was raised by the people. The city was able to provide \$55,000, which was supplemented by Senator Sawyer with \$25,000, thus creating a library fund of \$160,000.

The first annual report of the Michigan City (Ind.) library shows a most gratifying condition of the institution. The library was opened last October and the circulation reached 17,846 by May 11, 120 days. No record has been kept of use of books in the reference room. The children's department has been very successful.

The trustees of the public library of Cincinnati have organized under the new law, which gives the library into a board of trustees entirely separate from the board of education. The privileges of the library are now open to the residents of Hamilton county, instead of only to residents of Cincinnati. A levy of  $\frac{1}{10}$  mill for the support of the library is authorized on the valuation of the county.

Almena R. DePuy has just finished classifying the private library of A. L. Smith, sr., of Appleton, Wis. Mr

Smith has an exceedingly good collection of fine bindings, special editions and rare art works. His father was for many years president of Wesleyan University, Middlebury, Conn., and in that time collected a large number of books on Methodism which Mr Smith has now in his library.

Librarian Crunden and his wife have been the victims lately of misplaced confidence in a woman claiming kinship with a prominent librarian. The woman appealed to Mr Crunden for temporary help for herself and children, saying she would shortly be relieved by the relative whom Mr Crunden knew. Mr Crunden responded to the appeal and also interested his wife in the woman. Mrs Crunden soon discovered the woman was an impostor and none of her tales were true. Mr Crunden has since learned that the woman is a professional, and as he thinks she may try the librarian game in some other place, sends a word of warning to sympathetic ones in the craft.

#### West.

The city council of Denver is considering a plan for the consolidation of the two public libraries of that city.

The beautiful Hearst library of Anaconda, Mont., was dedicated June 11. It is to be a memorial of the late Senator George Hearst.

Edith Tabbitt, who has been acting librarian of the Omaha public library since last September, has been elected librarian of that institution.

The Anaconda (Mont.) Standard of June 12 contained a large supplement devoted to a history and description of the libraries of the state. It contains both valuable and interesting material.

Carrie C. Dennis, librarian of Lincoln (Neb.) public library, reports a circulation of 86,107v. for the past year. The home use of the library has materially decreased since the war with Spain began. A children's room was opened in April.

#### South

A new public library has been started in Gainesville, Tex.

The Library association of Birmingham, Ala., has sold its interests to the board of education of that city, and the library will be removed to new quarters and conducted hereafter as a free public library.

The city of Lexington, Ky., has leased the building and books of the Lexington library for a term of five years. The city will at once enlarge and put in proper condition the library, assuming all responsibility, and the institution will be made a free public library.

#### Pacific Coast

Plans are being drawn for a new library building for Stanford university at an estimated cost of \$150,000, and with a capacity for 80,000 books.

#### Canada

The report of the Hamilton (Ont.) library shows a circulation of 215,462v. with 25,110 in the library. The library has open shelves except in fiction department.

#### Foreign

In the 23 libraries in Berlin, which are either public or belonging to official bodies, there are over 2,000,000v. The royal library contains over 1,000,000v., the university library, 158,000, that of the royal statistical bureau 136,000. The war academy collection consists of 88,000v., that of the general staff of 69,700, and that of the royal chancery 72,600v.

The great advantage the European libraries have over those in this country is that they are governmental institutions, and the local authorities of St Petersburg, Paris, and London have the power to compel all publishers to donate copies of everything they publish. This of itself is a great aid, and the Bibliotheque Nationale of Paris gains at least 30,000 volumes a year by this method.

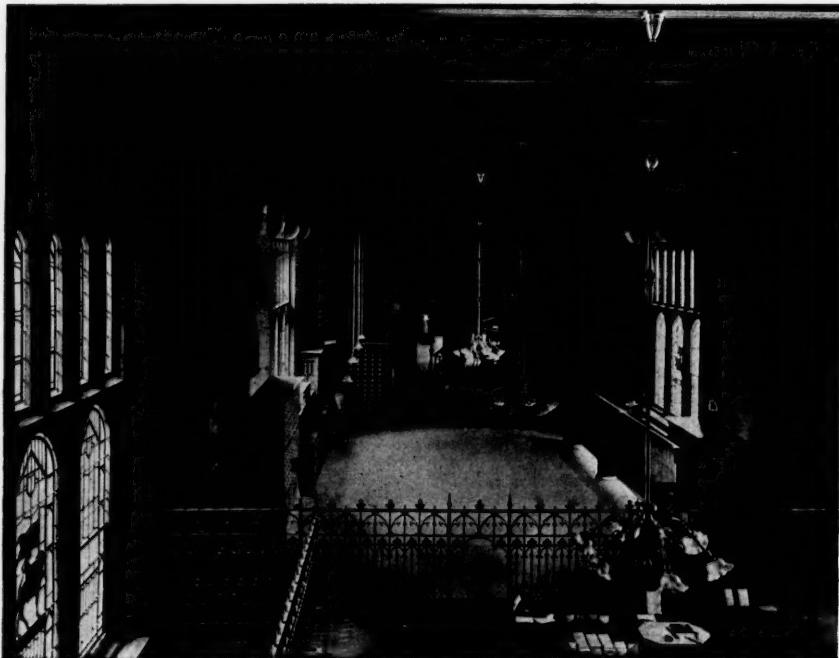
### Library Bureau Department

#### The New Princeton Library

The new Princeton library does more than honor the donor and the college. It is an honor to the country; a home for a million books, and such a home! Towers and gateways, courtyards and driveways do not sound like a usual library description. This building is a bit of Oxford, and its traditions set

livery room, printing room, stack room, comprising all one wing of the building; an exhibition room for art treasures and manuscripts, administration rooms, storerooms, seminar rooms—these give some idea of the working space of the library.

As to the working power, details of it would fill a volume. But one of the most interesting and typical appliances



down in a new-world university. Architectural richness and English associations are its first suggestions.

Those who are satisfied with mere architecture will find endless pleasure in the contemplation of its walls. Those who, in addition to architecture, are practically interested in the working details of such a building, have still more promise of pleasure, for the Princeton library is certainly one of the most thoroughly equipped, up-to-date institutions in the country. De-

for labor-saving is the automatic electrical arrangement, by which books from the stacks are sent down through a tunnel to the delivery desk.

That delivery desk cannot be passed by with a mere word. It is no ordinary affair of only moderate convenience and beauty, but a thing of special design and adaptation, with striking novelties of paneling and drawer-space. Like all the library furniture, it is made of the finest quality of quarter-sawed white oak, and with its

massive size and wrought-iron grille is quite a distinctive feature of the building. In photograph it looks like a bit of some old English cathedral.

The catalogs' corner, with its solid, handsome furnishings, and its leaded glass windows, is another bit of decidedly "churchly effect," and rivals the delivery desk for artistic popularity.

Of great practical interest are the fine card catalog cases, holding some three hundred and sixty trays, each tray so arranged that it can be pulled out and rested on a shelf, or pulled out altogether and taken to a table. The general convenience of this elastic method is one that will appeal to all library users.

The ever-present problem of book stack construction has been cleverly solved by the Library Bureau's latest development in that line—an adjustable clamp-supported shelf, whose detailed advantages are rather too technical for such a short magazine article.

Glass flooring is another step "from darkness to light" which is gratefully credited to the Library Bureau. Translucent rough plate is used for flooring throughout the library stacks, and an inestimable gain in light and cleanliness has been achieved.

We started with enthusiasm over the architecture; we are losing ourselves in praise of mechanical details. But what wonder? Brains and money working apace together do not leave much chance for dissatisfaction. With such a building and such equipment we see no limit to the use and power of the Princeton library.

#### Library Bureau Convention

June 6 was a day of great interest to the Library Bureau, and perhaps especially so to some of its western representatives who had never seen salt water or experienced a genuine east wind. On that day all the force connected with the selling department of the Library Bureau, from all its agencies, was instructed to report at the headquarters in Boston for general instructions and discussion. This brought

together over 30 men, many of whom were heretofore only known to each other through correspondence.

The management of the Library Bureau, justly proud of its new building, containing perhaps the best arranged offices and show rooms in the country, the largest and most complete and well-equipped card factory in the world, a printing office widely recognized for its "neatness and dispatch," and a storage and shipping room containing cards and cases enough, it would seem, to catalog every library in the United States, besides quantities of all kinds of library supplies, were anxious that its representatives should appreciate the facilities and advantages of this new home, and become familiar with its capabilities for turning out work in large quantities commensurate with greatly increasing demands, therefore this meeting was called.

Many librarians and other people using the card systems, while appreciating the necessity for absolute accuracy in the cutting and filing of cards, do not comprehend the effort and cost involved in obtaining satisfactory results, and even some of the Library Bureau salesmen were greatly surprised at the character of the work accomplished in this direction. All the cardboard coming into this factory is made by special formula expressly for Library Bureau use, and as this formula is the result of long and costly experiment, it is naturally guarded with great secrecy. Every machine used in the manufacture of Library Bureau cards has been made from special design for this use, and cannot be used by any other manufacturer; a careful investigation of the complete process of making Library Bureau cards leaves no question of doubt as to the accuracy of this fact. A visit to the designing and drafting rooms inspired every man with the care and nicety with which all details of the construction of furniture are attended. The Library Bureau cabinet shop in Boston is a gem, which its Chicago factory, though more pretentious can look to with pride.

The convention lasted three days, with two evening sessions.

While this meeting was called for discussion of all the great uses of Library Bureau goods in mercantile and manufacturing lines, still the library is, and always will be, the first consideration of the Library Bureau. Consequently the meetings of the first day were given over entirely to library work, and it is hoped that in many cases the Library Bureau will be better represented to the librarian as a result.

The attendance of Mr Dewey of the Library school at Albany, N. Y., was a privilege thoroughly appreciated by the meeting. The history of library work was gone over somewhat, the uses of the various library supplies made by the Library Bureau were gone into so that they might be better understood, and a question box kept Mr Dewey busy in a manner which would have done well as a sample for an A. L. A. meeting.

The sizes adopted by the A. L. A., and put out by the Library Bureau, have proved so satisfactory and so great a convenience for filing, that the United States government has adopted recently the standard size for cards,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  by  $12\frac{1}{2}$  centimeters for postal cards issued by the postoffice department. This adoption may be considered a great compliment to the library profession.

The succeeding days were devoted to the discussion of ways and means of applying library methods to the transactions of business houses.

The New York offices of the Library Bureau have also moved into larger quarters, and will keep on hand a full supply of library fittings for the special purpose that librarians visiting New York may be able to see and examine any detail connected with a library equipment. They also have samples of the L. B. steel stack. A cordial invitation is extended to all persons interested in library work to call at the New York office, 280 Broadway, for consultation regarding any department of library work.

#### Library Congress at Omaha, Neb.

The Library congress of the Trans-Mississippi exposition is now an assured thing, and will be held in the new library building at Omaha the last week in September.

It will consist of four or five sessions extending over three days, in which some of the principal librarians of the country will participate. The congress will be coincident with the Art congress, and will be followed the next week by the Literature congress, whose program is under the direction of Hamlin Garland.

The program, which has been placed in charge of W. H. Brett, of Cleveland, will be based on the broader interests of the library, and such questions as the Relation of the library to the State, including library legislation for both support and control; the Relation of the library to schools and other educational work; the Value to the community at large, that is to those outside of educational instruction; the broader phases of library methods, with a view to emphasizing the value of liberality and methods of library extension through traveling libraries and in other ways will be discussed. In short, a program which will be of interest both to library workers, and to those in the community who are interested in this work, and to whom it looks for support, will be prepared.

The Trans-Mississippi library congress will in no sense be antagonistic to the American Library Association, but designed to supplement its work and create an interest in libraries and the library movement throughout the Western States which will redound to the benefit of the A. L. A. While the meetings will be arranged with the interests of the western libraries chiefly in mind, the interest and influence of the eastern libraries are greatly desired.

Local arrangements are in the hands of a committee appointed by the Nebraska state library association, which indorsed the congress at its last annual meeting.

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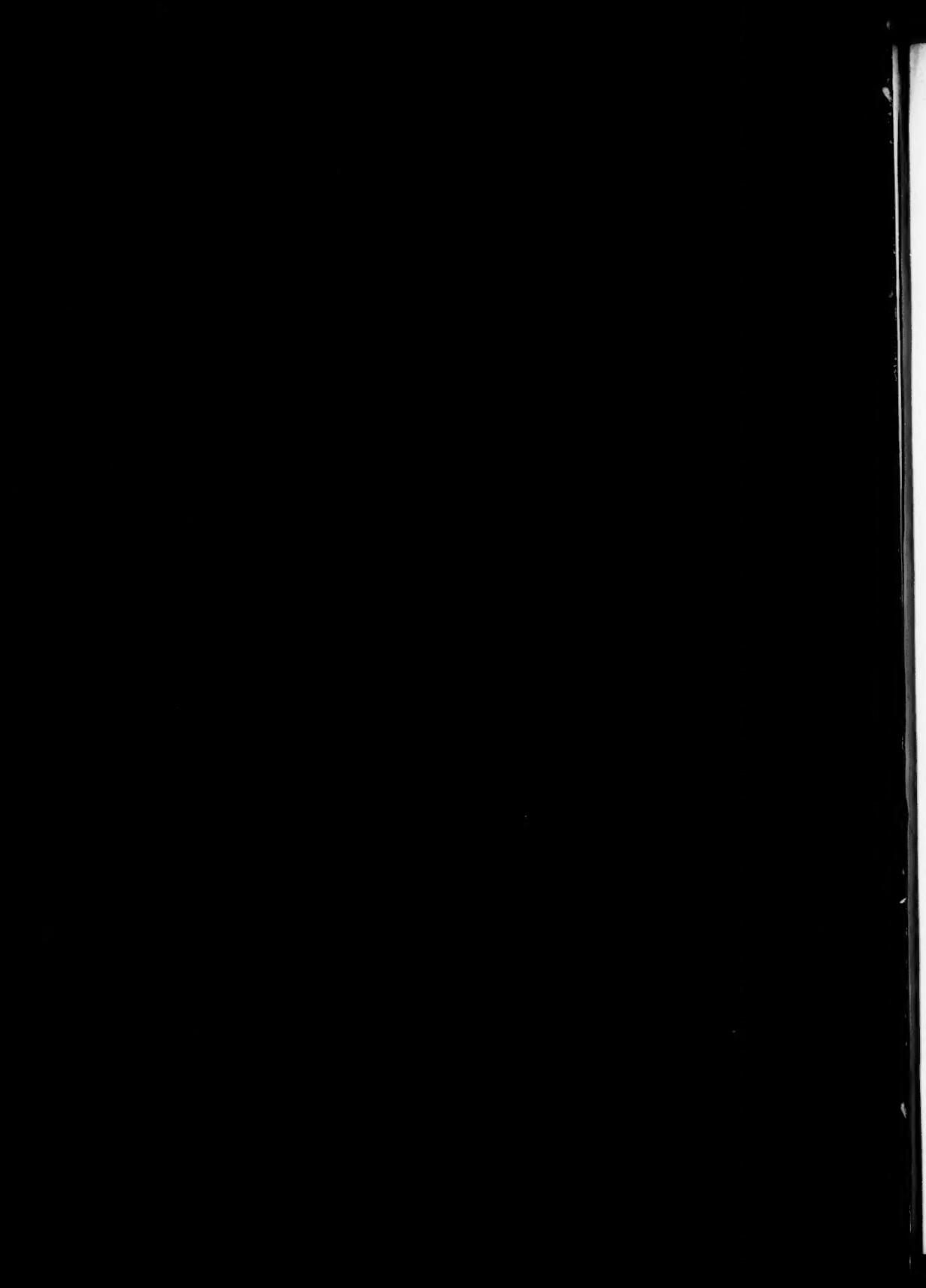
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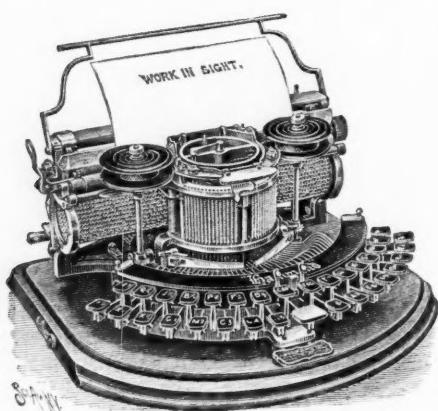
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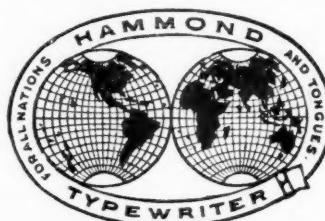
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